

**Walter Israel**  
Architectural and Design Lines

January 8, 2002

Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

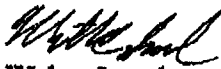
As a small businessman who depends upon Microsoft products for efficiency at work and at my home computer, I am happy that the federal government is now pushing for a settlement in its case against Microsoft. I hope that Judge Kollar-Kotelly will agree so everyone can get on with their business.

In my view, it is good for no one when one of the most successful companies is hindered from innovations and new products. It certainly was harmful to my pocketbook when the tech stocks dropped so low, a event that can be traced back to the date when the first settlement talks between Microsoft and the federal government broke down.

As a former member of the North Carolina Board on Parks and Wildlife, I have had dealings with a large government entity. I know what can happen when issues like lawsuits keep going on forever and forever. They drain resources and energy from employees whose time should be spent on other things. And lawsuits always end up costing the taxpayers money—as this one has.

That is why I hope the judge will see fit to accept this settlement and let everyone get back to work. Thanks for your kind consideration of my position.

Sincerely,



Walter Israel  
Owner

6041 Wilkinson Boulevard, Belmont, NC 28012